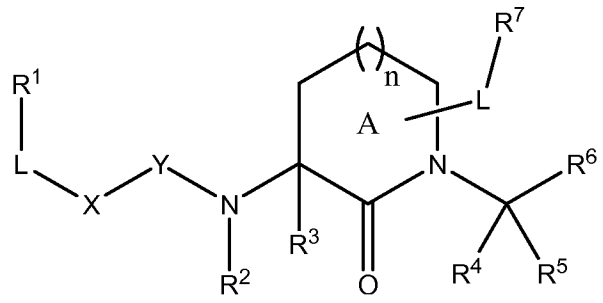
In the claims:

1. (**currently amended**) A compound having a structure of formula I:



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl, amino, alkylamino, acylamino, cyano, sulfonylamino, acyloxy, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, and a polypeptide chain of 1 to 8 amino acid residues;

R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aralkyl; or R^2 and R^3 together with the atoms to which they are attached form a 4- to 6-membered heterocyclic ring;

R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, and alkyl; or R^4 and R^5 together with the carbon to which they are attached form a 3- to 6-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of cyano, boronic acid, $-SO_2Z^1$, $-P(=O)Z^1$, $-C(=NH)NH_2$, and $-CH=NR^{12}$;

R^{12} is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, $-(CH_2)_p-R^{13}$, $-(CH_2)_q-OH$, $-(CH_2)_q-O-alkyl$, $-(CH_2)_q-O-alkenyl$, $-(CH_2)_q-O-alkynyl$, $-(CH_2)_q-O-(CH_2)_p-R^{13}$, $-(CH_2)_q-SH$, $-(CH_2)_q-S-alkyl$, $-(CH_2)_q-S-alkenyl$, $-(CH_2)_q-S-alkynyl$, $-(CH_2)_q-S-(CH_2)_p-R^{13}$, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(O)OR^{14}$, and $C(Z^1)(Z^2)(Z^3)$;

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, and heterocyclyl;

R^{14} is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, and LR^{13};

Z^1 is a halogen;

Z^2 and Z^3 are independently selected from the group consisting of H and halogen;

p is, independently for each occurrence, an integer from 0 to 8; and

q is, independently for each occurrence, an integer from 1 to 8;

R^7 is absent or is one or more substituents on ring A, each of which is independently selected from the group consisting of H, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, hydroxyl, [[oxo,]] ether, thioether, halogen, carbonyl, thiocarbonyl, amino, amido, cyano, nitro, azido, alkylamino, acylamino, aminoacyl, cyano, sulfate, sulfonate, sulfonyl, sulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxy, [[aryl,]] cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, and a polypeptide chain of 1 to 8 amino acid residues;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of H, aryl, alkyl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, and a polypeptide chain of 1 to 8 amino acid residues;

L is, independently for each occurrence, absent or is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl,- $(CH_2)_mO(CH_2)_m$-, -$(CH_2)_mNR^2(CH_2)_m$-, and -$(CH_2)_mS(CH_2)_m$-;

X is absent or selected from the group consisting of -$N(R^8)$-, -O-, and -S-;

Y is absent or selected from the group consisting of -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, and -SO_2-;

m is, independently for each occurrence, an integer from 0 to 10; and

n is an integer from 0 to 3.

2. (**canceled**)

3. (**currently amended**) The compound of claim 1, wherein R^6 is ~~a group of formula $B(Y^1)(Y^2)$, wherein Y^1 and Y^2 are independently OH or a group that is hydrolysable to OH; or together with the boron atom to which they are attached form a 5- to 8-membered ring that is hydrolysable to a~~ boronic acid.

4. (**previously presented**) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is a protease inhibitor.

5. **(previously presented)** The inhibitor of claim 4, wherein the protease inhibitor inhibits dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DPIV) with a K_i of 50 nM or less.

6. **(previously presented)** The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is orally active in a mammal.

7. **(previously presented)** A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier; and a compound of claim 1.

Claims 8-12 **(canceled)**

13. **(previously presented)** A packaged pharmaceutical, comprising a preparation of a compound of claim 1; and instructions describing the use of the preparation for inhibiting a post-proline cleaving enzyme.

14. **(previously presented)** A packaged pharmaceutical, comprising a preparation of a compound of claim 1; and instructions describing the use of the preparation for regulating glucose metabolism.

Claims 15-16 **(canceled)**